

## Transfield's solar company achieves major milestone

Transfield Holdings' majority owned German based subsidiary, Novatec Biosol AG (Novatec), has achieved a major milestone in the development of low cost solar thermal energy production.

Swiss utilities and equity investors, Elektra BaselLand and Industrielle Werke Basel, together with Novatec, have given the go ahead to commence construction of the 30MW Puerto Errado 2 (PE2) power plant in Murcia Province, Spain. The official ground breaking ceremony took place on 23 April 2010. This follows detailed evaluation of the existing 1.4MW Puerto Errado 1 demonstration plant, which commenced selling power to the Spanish grid in March 2009. The Spanish Government in December 2009 confirmed that PE2 qualified for the benchmark Spanish electricity tariff.

PE2 is scheduled for completion in 2012. Using Novatec's proprietary Linear Fresnel technology, the project has 300,000 square meters of mirrors to capture sufficient sun energy to run two 15MW GE turbines.

The Novatec technology has wide application, suitable in gas and coal fired power plants as a fuel saver and in industrial facilities requiring process heat. The competitive cost of the technology arises because it uses less material than existing solar thermal technologies; fabrication of the solar field components is highly automated and installation is straightforward. Moreover, the technology uses much less land and water than existing technologies; all resulting in a more cost effective generation of solar thermal energy with less environmental impact.

Transfield Holdings is actively seeking projects in Australia that can benefit from the use of the Novatec technology. Together with Transfield Services and Transfield Services Infrastructure Fund, it has proposed using the technology to convert the Collinsville 185MW coal fired power plant to solar under the Commonwealth's Solar Flagships Program. Transfield is also discussing other applications with existing coal and gas fired power plant owners.

Novatec's technology sets a benchmark for low cost solar steam and power generation, which was recognised at the 2009 Hannover Fair when Novatec was awarded the prestigious overall Industry Prize, as well as the Energy and Environment prize.

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## **About Novatec's Linear Fresnel Technology**

Novatec's Linear Fresnel solar field is a direct steam generator consisting of banks of parallel rows of flat mirrors (primary reflectors), each bank reflecting and focussing solar radiation onto a focal line. Along this line a receiver is installed which consists of a secondary reflector and absorber pipe. Water, flowing through the absorbers, turns into steam, which is collected in a steam drum and dispatched to a steam turbine / generator. By comparison, conventional solar thermal power plants use oil as a heat transfer medium.

Images available at [.novatec-biosol.com](http://novatec-biosol.com)

## **About Transfield Holdings**

Transfield Holdings joined Novatec as its major shareholder in 2007. Transfield Holdings is a privately-owned investment and development company based in Sydney, Australia, with a 50 year history in developing, financing and managing infrastructure businesses and projects in Australia and internationally.

More information can be found at [.transfield.com.au](http://transfield.com.au)

## **About Novatec**

Novatec BioSol AG is a solar power technology development company based in Karlsruhe, Germany. Novatec was formed in 2005 by German engineers with expertise in solar research and development, automated production technology and the design and implementation of renewable energy systems.

More information can be found at [.novatec-biosol.com](http://novatec-biosol.com)

## **About Elektra Baselland (EBL)**

EBL is a privately owned independent utility whose core businesses are electricity, heating and telecommunications. EBL is committed to ecologically produced energy and to the sustainable protection of the environment. A leading provider of telecommunications services in Switzerland, EBL is also an effective partner in advanced heat generation and distribution.

More information can be found at [.ebl.ch](http://ebl.ch)

## **About Industrielle Werke Basel (IWB)**

IWB is an independent utility owned by the canton of Basel-Stadt. Its aim is to take a leading role in the development of environmentally sustainable energy sources.

More information can be found at [.iwb.ch](http://iwb.ch)

## Media Release

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Novatec's PE1 solar field, Murcia, Spain

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